

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice,

Add the following new claims 9-12.

1. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (New) In a printing press having at least one printing unit for printing sheet material directed through the printing press in a downstream direction of travel, a dryer for drying printed sheet material as it is directed along a predetermined path of movement following passage through said at least one printing unit, said dryer comprising a radiant heater, said radiant heater including a housing within which a plurality of radiant tubes are arranged in parallel relation to each other and in perpendicular relation to the direction of movement of sheet material along said predetermined path of movement, said radiant tubes having a common reflector supported within said housing for directing predetermined radiation onto the printed sheet material directed along said path, said reflector being formed with parallel parabolic shaped reflector sections, said radiant tubes each being disposed at least partially within a respective one of said parabolic shaped reflector sections, said parabolic reflector sections defining a closed bottom joint intermediate wall between adjacent radiant tubes that extends below the upper periphery of the radiant tubes but not below a lower perimeter thereof, said reflector having a reflector section at an upstream end thereof with an end wall and faces in a downstream direction that extends to a level below the level of the radiant tubes, and said reflector having a reflector section at a downstream end of said reflector with an end wall that extends to a level below the level of the radiant tubes and faces in an upstream direction.

10. In the printing press of claim 9 in which said radiant heater has two radiant tubes arranged in parallel relation to each other, and said parabolic shaped reflector sections have central axes that are inclined at an acute angle with respect to each other such that the parabolic shaped sections open in a direction toward each other.

11. (New) In the printing press of claim 9 in which said radiant burner is spaced a distance greater than one centimeter from the sheet material directed along said predetermined path.

12. (New) In a printing press having at least one printing unit for printing sheet material directed through the printing press in a downstream direction of travel, a dryer for

drying printed sheet material as it is directed along a predetermined path of movement following passage through said at least one printing unit, said dryer comprising a radiant heater, said radiant heater including a housing within which a pair of radiant tubes (2,3) are arranged in parallel relation to each other and in perpendicular relation to the direction of movement of sheet material along said predetermined path of movement, said radiant tubes having a common reflector supported within said housing for directing predetermined radiation onto the printed sheet material directed along said path, said reflector being formed with parallel parabolic shaped reflector sections, said radiant tubes each being disposed at least partially within a respective one of said parabolic shaped reflector sections, said parabolic shaped reflector sections defining a closed bottom joint intermediate wall between adjacent radiant tubes, and said parabolic shaped reflector sections having central axes that are inclined at an acute angle to each other such that the parabolic shaped reflector sections open in a direction toward each other.